

In Loving Memory of
Deacon Luther Bland Harris

Sunrise: November 21, 1913

Sunset: June 16, 2003



Services Held
Friday, June 20, 2003
12:00 Noon
St. John Missionary Baptist Church
662 South 52nd Street
Richmond, CA
Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor

Obituary

Luther Bland "Daddy" Harris

Luther Bland Harris was born in Nevada County, Arkansas to Elizabeth "Nan" Jackson and Daniel Harris on November 21, 1913, the second of eight children. He was raised in Camden, Arkansas. Luther was baptized in the *Two Bayou* on Easter Sunday, 1927 by Reverend Jones, Pastor, Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.

He received his early education in Arkansas and graduated from Mission High School in San Francisco, California. Because "**Daddy**" valued education, he attended various colleges in Richmond, Stockton and San Bernardino, California.

Luther married Amanda Kirby on December 25, 1933 in Prescott, Arkansas. To this union six children were born. He moved to Richmond, California in 1942 and has lived in San Francisco, San Bernardino, East Palo Alto, Stockton and Oakland, California. He always took advantage of promotional opportunities and his various occupations led him to relocate to the aforementioned cities.

"**Daddy**" was a true believer who labored in church all his life. He was ordained as a deacon at Sweet Home Baptist Church in Prescott, Arkansas, in 1936. Luther served continuously as a deacon in St. John Baptist Church, Richmond; Olivet Baptist Church, San Francisco; Temple Baptist Church, San Bernardino; St. John Baptist Church, East Palo Alto; Galilee Baptist Church, Stockton, returning to St. John in Richmond in 1985.

Luther believed in the work ethic. During his career, he was a cowboy, a welder, San Francisco Muni driver, laborer and a heavy equipment operator. He was also a proud member of the Navy Construction Battalion Reserves (Sea Bees) and retired from the California Division of Highways and the Navy simultaneously.

Among his many accomplishments are: becoming the first African American Foreman in the Division of Highways for the State of California; establishing an educational scholarship fund in the city of Stockton; starting and serving as Grand Marshall of the Juneteenth celebration in Stockton; serving as a member of the Advisory Council for the South Berkeley Senior Center. Luther demonstrated the utmost integrity for those who followed his example.

"**Daddy**" leaves to cherish his memory, his dedicated wife of sixty-nine and a half years, Amanda; three daughters, Dorothy (Alvin) Cook, Doris Juanita Washington; and Eloise Steward; three sons, Robert Harris, Daniel (Patricia) Harris and Errol (Josephine) Harris; sixteen grand children, thirty eight great grand children, seven great-great grand children and a host of other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional

Scripture

Old Testament: Reverend Melvin Williams
New Testament: Reverend Otis Harris

Prayer

Reverend Charles Graves
Galilee Missionary Baptist Church
Stockton, California

Choir

"Blessed Assurance"

Acknowledgements

Sister Hattie Murphy

Resolutions

Sister Hattie Murphy

Choir

"I Don't Know What I Would Do Without the Lord"

Reflections (2 minutes Please)

Deacon Nick Waller
Brother Lewis Preston
Deacon E. Cable
Sister Evelyn Clayton

Obituary

Read Silently

Solo

"His Eye is on the Sparrow"
Minister Cynthia Harris

Words of Comfort

Dr. Kevin B. Hall

Parting View

Recessional

Interment
Sweet Home Cemetery
Prescott, Arkansas

Active Pallbearers

St. John Missionary Baptist Church Deacon Board



*God saw the road was getting rough,
The hill was hard to climb
He gently closed those loving eyes
And whispered, "Peace be thine".
The weary hours, the days of pain,
The sleepless nights are passed,
The ever-patient worn out frame
Has found sweet rest at last.
God saw the way you were getting weary,
So He did what He knew best.
He came and stood beside you
And whispered, "Come and rest".*

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy during this difficult time in their lives. God bless each of you.

The Harris Family ¹⁰⁵
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